

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IC

SUBJECT: YOUNG PROGRESSIVES RENEW CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ICELAND
DEFENSE FORCE

1. NATIONAL CONVENTION OF YOUNG PROGRESSIVE PARTY
MEMBERS, MEETING EARLIER THIS MONTH, RENEWED CALL FOR
REMOVAL OF US-MANNED ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, THOUGH ISSUE
WAS NOT MAJOR ONE AT CONFERENCE. OVERALL, MEETING WAS
REPORTEDLY SUBDUED AFFAIR AS RESULT OF DETERMINED EFFORT
BY ALL FACTIONS TO AVOID TURMOIL WHICH HAS WRACKED YOUNG
PP'S IN RECENT YEARS.

2. BIENNIAL CONVENTION, HELD THIS YEAR IN HUSAVIK, ISSUED
LENGTHY POLICY DECLARATION THAT DEALT CHIEFLY WITH
RURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC MATTERS. IT
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ALSO INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS ON KEY FOREIGN POLICY AND

DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES:

-- FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM ICELAND; IT IS REGRETABLE THAT 1971-74 LEFTIST GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

-- FISHING LIMITS ISSUE IS LIFE-AND-DEATH MATTER FOR ICELAND AND COUNTRY HAS EVERY RIGHT TO EXTEND JURISDICTION UNILATERALLY IF LOS NEGOTIATING ROUTE FAILS.

-- THROUGH INCUMBENT COALITION HAS LARGE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, DIVISIONS WITHIN INDEPENDENCE PARTY HAVE LED TO DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTING NEEDED MEASURES. YOUNG PP'S ACKNOWLEDGE NEED FOR ACCOMODATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT PARTIES BUT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS HAPPY WITH ALL MEASURES GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED THUS FAR.

3. THOUGH YOUNG PP'S LEFT WING WEAKENED SINCE LAST NATIONAL MEETING BY 1974 BOLT OF MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS, CONVENTION'S CALL FOR REMOVAL OF IDF WAS UNEQUIVOCAL AND SOMEWHAT MORE BLUNT THAN LINE OF PARENT ORGANIZATION (WHICH ADDS UNDEFINED TERM "IN PEACETIME" TO STIPULATION OF NO FOREIGN TROOPS). ON OTHER HAND, DEFENSE QUESTION REPORTEDLY WAS NOT FOCUS OF MAJOR ATTENTION AT MEETING, AND PLANK ON IDF WITHDRAWAL WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY DEMAND FOR REVIEW OF ICELAND'S NATION MEMBERSHIP AS HAS BEEN ISSUED BY YOUNG PP'S IN PAST.

4. SOURCES IN BOTH YOUTH AND PARENT PP LEADERSHIP DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS SNIPING BY YOUNG PP'S AT NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR LATTER'S ROLE IN COALITION WITH IP. AS MEMBER OF YOUNG PP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SAID, "THEY (NATIONAL LEADERSHIP) WOULD THINK SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH US IF WE DIDN'T FAULT THEM FOR SOMETHING."
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